


Project Timeline		
Completed	Fall 2003	October 21 Environmental Assessment open house and scoping meeting to introduce the project and gather comments.
	Fall 2003/ Winter 2004	Preliminary concept alternatives developed in more detail and additional alternatives developed from public input. WSDOT began to identify potential impacts of alternatives.
	Spring 2004	March 25 open house with discussion of options and evaluation of alternatives.
	Spring/Summer 2004	Began detailed technical study of Option E-4, focusing on its effects on the environment. Property owners invited to May 20 meeting about Option E-4 to learn if their properties could be affected by the project. Began consideration and study of new Option M.
	Summer 2004	Postcard sent to project mailing list and letter sent to area property owners about the consideration of Option M. Area property and business owners and tenants invited to a meeting on August 12 to learn more about Option M and to provide input to WSDOT regarding both Option M and Option E-4.
	Fall 2004	Option M selected as recommended build alternative.
	Winter 2005	Environmental technical studies completed.
	Spring/Summer 2005	Open house, access hearing, and adoption of right-of-way plans.
We are here	September 1, 2005	Open house and public review of Environmental Assessment.
Next Steps	Summer 2005/ Fall 2006	Right-of-way acquisition. WSDOT will purchase property to make room for the interchange.
	Fall 2006	Final design complete.
	Spring 2007	Construction begins.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT #5

IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.

Open House
Thursday, September 1
6-8 p.m.
Battle Ground
High School cafeteria

Washington State
Department of Transportation
PO Box 1709
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709
SR 502 Interchange
Project



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 502 Interchange
Project

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August 2005

Environmental Assessment completion marks project milestone

After two years of study, concept development, and public involvement, the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-5/State Route 502 Interchange Project is now complete (*see story on page 2*). The new interchange, connecting I-5 to SR 502 (NE 219th Street), is intended to ease congestion and improve safety along I-5, improve safety at the NE 179th Street interchange, and help improve access to Battle Ground and north Clark County. The \$34.7 million required to fund the project from design through construction comes from the 2003 Legislative Transportation (or “Nickel”) Funding Package.

Project considers access, right-of-way needs



Residents and property owners learned more about the project’s access control and right-of-way needs at the March 2005 open house

Recent project activities have focused on specific access and right-of-way needs. Access control limits where the highway can be entered in order to preserve the safety and efficiency of the state highway system. The land a highway or local road in built on, and the areas immediately adjacent to it is called the right-of-way. It is owned by the state, city, or county, and is necessary for both construction and maintenance of the road or highway system. When acquiring right-of way for a project, payment of “just compensation” is required and is determined by an independent property appraisal. Upon completion and review of an approved appraisal, a written offer is presented to the property owner.

On March 24, WSDOT hosted an open house and access hearing at its regional headquarters in Vancouver. At the open house, residents and property owners learned more about the project’s access control and right-

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Open House
Thursday, September 1
6-8 p.m.
(Stop by any time)
Battle Ground
High School cafeteria
300 West Main Street
Battle Ground, WA

Environmental Assessment ready for review and comment

As part of the study phase of the I-5/State Route 502 Interchange Project, WSDOT prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). An EA is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The EA examines the potential impacts of the Recommended Build Alternative, as compared to the no-

build alternative, on the environment (wetlands, vegetation, water, air quality, noise, archaeological, cultural resources, and social), and determines how these impacts might be lessened. The EA is now complete. A 30-day comment period, during which the public and others can review and comment on the EA, begins August 17. A public open house to present the

completed Environmental Assessment for review is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, from 6–8 p.m. in the Battle Ground High School cafeteria, 300 West Main Street. The open house is an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the project and the EA
- Meet with project staff
- Review and comment on the EA

Copies of the EA are available for review during regular business hours at the following locations			
WSDOT SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE 11018 NE 51st Circle Vancouver 360-905-2000	BATTLE GROUND COMMUNITY LIBRARY 12 West Main Battle Ground 360-687-2322	RIDGEFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY 210 North Main Avenue Ridgefield 360-887-8281	STATE LIBRARY 6880 Capitol Blvd. South Tumwater, WA 98501 360-704-5200
The executive summary of the EA is on the web at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Interchange (look for the link in the yellow Project Status box or under the “Documents” header on left side of page)			
Comments on the EA should be submitted in writing by September 16 to: Becky Michaliszyn, WSDOT Environmental Services Manager PO Box 1709 Vancouver, WA 98668-1709 Comments can also be e-mailed to: michalb@wsdot.wa.gov			
The EA may be purchased for \$10 or project information may be reviewed and/or copied at the WSDOT Southwest Region Office or by calling Becky Michaliszyn at 360-905-2174.			

On the Horizon: SR 502 Corridor Widening

This project will widen State Route 502 (NE 219th Street) from two to four lanes between I-5 and the city of Battle Ground. Widening SR 502 will help accommodate increasing traffic volumes, and improve safety by controlling access onto and off of the highway. The project is currently in the early design and environmental phase. Funding for this phase was provided by the 2003 Legislative Transportation (or “Nickel”) Funding Package. During this past Legislative session, an additional \$50 million for completion of the project was approved as part of the 2005 Transportation Partnership Funding Package. For more information about this project, please visit this Web page: www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR502/Widening/.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by contacting Chris Tams at 360-759-1310 by August 25. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service, or Tele-Braille at 7-1-1, Voice 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to the event sponsor’s phone number.

Access, right of way

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of-way needs and talked with project team members before the access hearing. The access hearing gave local public officials, owners of adjacent properties, and other interested citizens a formal opportunity to testify on any proposed limitations on access from private property to the highway system. Following the hearing, a Findings and Order document was prepared. This document summarized the hearing and the formal comment period associated with it. WSDOT also responds to testimony in the Findings and Order document and can revise the access/right-of-way plans based on the testimony received. The completed Findings and Order and revised plans were approved and adopted by the Washington Attorney General in July.

Title VI Statement to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT’s Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO’s Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

I-5 SR 502 Interchange Project



**Environmental Assessment
comment period
starts August 17 and ends
September 16, 2005**

Next Steps

Following the 30-day comment period, the Federal Highway Administration will issue a finding on the Environmental Assessment. WSDOT real estate and relocation staff have begun contacting property owners within the area and plan to begin acquiring property by mid-August. WSDOT will continue the acquisition process until construction begins in spring 2007. (See page 4 for a project timeline.)